

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently amended)** ~~A water-solubilizing agent for~~ An aqueous nanocarbons solution comprising: [[,]]
nanocarbons, and
as an active ingredient, a surface active agent capable of forming globular micelles having a diameter of from 50 to 2000 nm in the ~~an aqueous~~ solution or a ~~water-soluble macromolecule~~ alginates having a weight average molecular weight of from 10,000 to 50,000,000.

2. **(Currently amended)** The ~~water-solubilizing agent~~ solution according to Claim 1, wherein the surface active agent is a phospholipid- or non-phospholipid-based surface active agent.

3. **(Currently amended)** The ~~water-solubilizing agent~~ solution according to Claim 2, wherein the surface active agent is one or more selected from the group consisting of distearoylphosphatidylcholine (DSPC), dimyristoylphosphatidylcholine (DMPC), dipalmitoylphosphatidylcholine (DPPC), 3-[(3-cholamidopropyl)dimethylamino]-2-hydroxy-1-propanesulfonate (CHAPSO), 3-[(3-cholamidopropyl)dimethylamino]-propanesulfonate (CHAP) and N,N-bis(3-D-gluconamidopropyl)-cholamide.

4-6 **(Cancelled)**

7. **(Currently amended)** The ~~water-solubilizing agent~~ solution according to Claim 1, which further comprises a nanocarbon-permeating substance and an oxidizing agent and the pH ranges from 6 to 14.

8. **(Currently amended)** The ~~water-solubilizing agent~~ solution according to Claim 7, wherein the nanocarbon-permeating substance is lithium ion.

9. **(Currently amended)** The ~~water-solubilizing agent~~ solution according to Claim 7 ~~or 8~~, wherein the oxidizing agent is a persulfate.

10. **(Currently amended)** The ~~water-solubilizing agent~~ solution according to Claim 1, wherein the nanocarbons are carbon nanotubes (single- and multi-layered types and cup-stack types), carbon nanofibers or carbon nanohorns.

11. **(Cancelled)**

12. **(Currently amended)** A process for refining nanocarbons comprising the step of adding a crude product containing nanocarbons to ~~the water-solubilizing agent as defined in claim 6~~ in the form of an aqueous solution containing as an active ingredient, a surface active agent capable of forming globular micelles having a diameter of from 50 to 2000 nm in the solution or alginates having a weight average molecular weight of from 10,000 to 50,000,000, thereby dissolving the nanocarbons into the

~~water-solubilizing agent~~ aqueous solution.

13. **(Currently amended)** The process for refining nanocarbons according to Claim 12, which further comprises the step of treating the crude product containing nanocarbons with an acid before adding the crude product to the ~~water-solubilizing agent~~ aqueous solution when a metal catalyst was used in a process for producing the crude product.

14. **(Currently amended)** A process for producing high-purity nanocarbons comprising the step of adding a crude product containing nanocarbons to ~~the water-solubilizing agent of claim 6~~ in the form of an aqueous solution containing as an active ingredient, a surface active agent capable of forming globular micelles having a diameter of from 50 to 2000 nm in the solution or alginates having a weight average molecular weight of from 10,000 to 50,000,000, thereby dissolving the nanocarbons into the ~~water-solubilizing agent~~ aqueous solution.

15. **(Currently amended)** The process for producing high-purity nanocarbons according to Claim 14, which further comprises the step of treating the crude product containing nanocarbons with an acid before adding the crude product to the ~~water-solubilizing agent~~ aqueous solution when a metal catalyst was used in a process for producing the crude product.

16. **(New)** The solution according to Claim 1, wherein the active ingredient is the surface active agent capable of forming globular micelles having a diameter of from 50 to 2000 nm in the solution.

17. **(New)** The solution according to Claim 1, wherein the active ingredient is the alginates having a weight average molecular weight of from 10,000 to 50,000,000.

18. **(New)** The solution according to Claim 16, wherein the surface active agent is a phospholipid- or non-phospholipid-based surface active agent.

19. **(New)** The solution according to Claim 16, wherein the surface active agent is one or more selected from the group consisting of distearoylphosphatidylcholine (DSPC), dimyristoylphosphatidylcholine (DMPC), dipalmitoylphosphatidylcholine (DPPC), 3-[(3-cholamidopropyl)dimethylamino]-2-hydroxy-1-propanesulfonate (CHAPSO), 3-[(3-cholamidopropyl)dimethylamino]-propanesulfonate (CHAP) and N,N-bis(3-D-gluconamidopropyl)-cholamide.

20. **(New)** The solution according to Claim 16, which further comprises a nanocarbon-permeating substance and an oxidizing agent and the pH ranges from 6 to 14.

21. **(New)** The solution according to Claim 16, wherein the nanocarbons are carbon nanotubes (single- and multi-layered types and cup-stack types), carbon nanofibers or carbon nanohorns.

22. **(New)** The solution according to Claim 17, which further comprises a nanocarbon-permeating substance and an oxidizing agent and the pH ranges from 6 to 14.

23. **(New)** The solution according to Claim 17, wherein the nanocarbons are carbon nanotubes (single- and multi-layered types and cup-stack types), carbon nanofibers or carbon nanohorns.

24. **(New)** A process for producing an aqueous nanocarbons solution comprising the step of adding a crude product to an aqueous solution containing as an active ingredient, a surface active agent capable of forming globular micelles having a diameter of from 50 to 2000 nm in the solution or alginates having a weight average molecular weight of from 10,000 to 50,000,000.

25. **(New)** The process according to Claim 12, wherein the active ingredient is the a surface active agent capable of forming globular micelles having a diameter of from 50 to 2000 nm in the solution.

26. **(New)** The process according to Claim 12, wherein the active ingredient is the alginates having a weight average molecular weight of from 10,000 to 50,000,000.

27. **(New)** The process according to Claim 13, wherein the active ingredient is the a surface active agent capable of forming globular micelles having a diameter of from 50 to 2000 nm in the solution.

28. **(New)** The process according to Claim 13, wherein the active ingredient is the alginates having a weight average molecular weight of from 10,000 to 50,000,000.

29. **(New)** The process according to Claim 14, wherein the active ingredient is the a surface active agent capable of forming globular micelles having a diameter of from 50 to 2000 nm in the solution.

30. **(New)** The process according to Claim 14, wherein the active ingredient is the alginates having a weight average molecular weight of from 10,000 to 50,000,000.

31. **(New)** The process according to Claim 24, wherein the active ingredient is the a surface active agent capable of forming globular micelles having a diameter of from 50 to 2000 nm in the

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solution.

32. **(New)** The process according to Claim 24, wherein the active ingredient is the alginates having a weight average molecular weight of from 10,000 to 50,000,000.